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April 23, 2004

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## STEENS MOUNTAIN ADVISORY COUNCIL TO MEET IN BEND

The next Steens Mountain Advisory Council Meeting (SMAC) is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, May 10-11, 2004, at the Comfort Inn, 62065 SE 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Bend, Oregon.

On Monday, the meeting will open with updates from the Chair and Designated Federal Official. Agenda items for the remainder of the 2-day meeting include discussion of the SMAC vision, an update on Steens Mountain projects, a use and enforcement report regarding the number of Special Recreation Permits (SRP) issued, SRP violations, wilderness violations, and current and future enforcement plans. The meeting will conclude with discussion on forming a science committee, a report on cooperative management agreements, and planning the June meeting agenda and field tour. Any other matters that may reasonably come before the SMAC may also be addressed.

The public is welcome to attend all portions of the meeting, scheduled from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday, and 8:00 a.m. to mid-afternoon on Tuesday, and may contribute each day during the public comment periods at 11:00 a.m. Those who verbally address the SMAC during the open session are asked to also provide a written statement of their comments or presentation. Unless otherwise approved by the SMAC Chair, the public comment period will last no longer than 30 minutes, and each speaker may address the SMAC for a maximum of 5 minutes.

If you have information you would like distributed to SMAC members, please send it to Rhonda Karges at the Burns District Office, 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738, prior to the start of the meeting. If you send information or general correspondence to anyone at the Burns District Office and would like a copy given to the SMAC, please write "COPY TO SMAC" on the envelope and enclosed document(s).

For further information on the SMAC or the upcoming meeting, contact Rhonda Karges at the Burns District Office at (541) 573-4400, weekdays, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.